

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/023,319

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Applicant(s)

DRISKELL, STANLEY W.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 12/18/01.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-46.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 18 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

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PAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-57 are allowed over the prior art of record.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features in the instant invention which are not found in the prior art either singularly or in combination of a method of display for use with a graphical user interface of a personal computer, the method comprising the steps of identifying a maximum display, wherein a size of the maximum display is based at least in part on at least one of a probable-largest required size and an absolute-largest required size; positioning the maximum display in a best manner, wherein the maximum display minimally overlays a work area of a display zone of an active display, and wherein the maximum display does not extend outside the display zone; and displaying a control path selected by the user based at least in part on a position of the maximum display, wherein the control path does not extend outside the display zone, wherein the display zone corresponds to a delimited area of the active display within which the control path may be rendered, and wherein the work area corresponds to an area of the display zone presumed to be of interest to the user, and wherein the plurality of control paths selectable by the user comprises a plurality of permitted, generation ordered, sequences of differing controls, wherein a control corresponds to a displayable graphic having at least a shell area for presentation of at least one of choice selections and textual matter. Each independent claim is identified "wherein the maximum display minimally overlays a work area of a display zone of an active display, and wherein the maximum display does not extend outside the display zone; and

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displaying a control path selected by the user based at least in part on a position of the maximum display, wherein the control path does not extend outside the display zone, wherein the display zone corresponds to a delimited area of the active display within which the control path may be rendered, and wherein the work area corresponds to an area of the display zone presumed to be of interest to the user, and wherein the plurality of control paths selectable by the user comprises a plurality of permitted, generation ordered, sequences of differing controls, wherein a control corresponds to a displayable graphic having at least a shell area for presentation of at least one of choice selections and textual matter". The closest prior arts discloses a conventional to employ a GUI to facilitate user interaction with highly flexible, associative that enable users conveniently to organize digitally-stored thoughts and their network interrelationships; either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 703-308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

06/27/04

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